

Section D - Employment

The employment, establishment, and wage information provided here is compiled from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), or ES202, program. The ES202 program is a Federal/State cooperative program that collects and compiles employment and wage data for workers covered by State unemployment insurance (UI) laws, and Federal civilian workers covered by Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees. This data excludes proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family members, and certain farm and domestic workers. The following are additional definitions that may be helpful when analyzing this data:

- **Employment** is the number of covered workers working in Loudoun County at the cited establishment.
- An **establishment** is an economic unit such as a farm, factory, store, or mine that produces goods or provides services. It is usually at a single physical location and engaged in one predominant type of economic activity. A business may have more than one establishment.
- **Wages** consist of earnings before payroll deductions, including production bonuses, incentive earnings, commissions and cost-of-living adjustment.

Loudoun County has a diverse employment base. Four industry sectors have a 10 percent or greater share of employment: Construction, Retail Trade, Information, and Services. This diversity has allowed the county to maintain stability when certain industries, or the economy in general, experience a slow down. Transportation and technology-related employment comprise a significant share of Loudoun's major businesses, including America Online, United Airlines, and Orbital Sciences Corporation.

In Northern Virginia, Loudoun County ranks third in employment, and is projected to lead all Northern Virginia counties in employment growth for each of the decades between 2000 and 2030.

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